

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 CA-01 L-03 SS-15 CIAE-00

FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 /031 W

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R 070510Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9525

UNCLAS JIDDA 6162

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION JIDDA AMEMBASSY MUSCAT INFO SECSTATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN USLO RIYADH AUG 10

QUOTE:

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, CVIS, SA

SUBJ: VISA RECIPROCITY: NEW SAUDI RESTRICTIONS ON VISA ISSUANCE

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON JUNE 28, 1977, ISSUED A CIRCULAR LETTER STATING THAT EXCEPT FOR WIVES AND YOUNG DEPENDENTS (INTERPRETED HERE AS UNDER EIGHTEEN), RELATIVES OF FOREIGN WORKERS IN SAUDI ARABIA WILL NO LONGER BE ISSUED VISAS OR RESIDENCE VISAS. RESTRICTIONS APPARENTLY APPLY TO BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND NON-DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. IN ITS LETTER SAG COMPLAINED OF THE MANY "RELATIVES" WHO HAVE ENTERED THE KINGDOM AND ARE WORKING ILLEGALLY.

SAG CLAIM THEY ARE OFTEN INEFFICIENT OR INCOMPETENT, AND ARE A DRAIN ON THE KINGDOM'S MEAGER INFRASTRUCTURE.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY LOCKHEED AND WHITTAKER CORP. ASKING FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR COLLEGE-AGE CHILDREN OF THEIR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES. SEVERAL EMPLOYEES OF SAUDI AIRLINES HAVE APPEALED FOR HELP PERSONALLY, INCLUDING THE PARENTS OF A DIABETIC GIRL WHO HAS BEEN REFUSED A RESIDENCE VISA.

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3. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY SENT A NOTE TO MFA RAISING THIS MATTER IN REGARDS TO A VISA REFUSED TO A CORPS OF ENGINEERS DEPENDENT, WITH NO RESULT. IN ADDITION, BOTH THE DCM AND AMBASSADOR HAVE DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM WITH THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR, PRINCE AHMED, ON TWO OCCASIONS. AT FIRST, PRINCE WAS NOT AWARE THAT ANY SUCH

DIRECTIVE WAS IN EXISTENCE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, AFTER SEEING OUR COPY OF CIRCULAR LETTER, AGREED TO ISSUE DIRECTIVE WHICH WOULD AMEND ORIGINAL INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT EMPLOYEES OF THE RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE USG, SAUDI AIRLINES, AND LOCKHEED WOULD BE PERMITTED TO OBTAIN VISAS FOR ADULT RELATIVES WHO WISH TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS AMENDMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ISSUED.

4. ON TOP OF THE STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF THE TAX LAWS CONCERNING FRINGE BENEFITS AND THE REMOVAL OF THE INCOME EXCLUSION, THIS NEW VISA RESTRICTION IF NOT PROMPTLY CORRECTED COULD HINDER AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN SAUDI ARABIA'S DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ADD A SOUR NOTE TO OUR PRESENT FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP.

5. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE PROBLEM BE RAISED WITH THE SAUDI EMBASSY, STRESSING THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH AMERICANS HERE VIEW IT. MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET ALTERED ITS VISA ISSUANCE POLICY, IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO APPLY RECIPROCITY IN THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO SAUDIS UNLESS SAUDI POLICY IS PROMPTLY CHANGED AS PROMISED BY PRINCE AHMED.

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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